

God's Gift Appeal Formula and Goals for 2012

God's Gift Appeal (GGA) parish goals are calculated based on an equitable formula that includes the number of households in a parish and the parish offertory with adjustments for parishes with Catholic schools and Native American parishes.

Goals are determined by:

- a. Ratio of the number of parish households to the total number of households in the diocese.
Example: Parish A with 100 households \div Total diocesan households of 25,000 = .004
- b. Ratio of parish offertory to the total offertory in the diocese.
Example: Parish A offertory of \$50,000 \div Total diocesan offertory of \$16,350,000 = .00306

Parishes providing support or subsidies to Catholic schools will have parish offertory reduced by the amount of the net support or subsidy.

Example: Parish B offertory = \$600,000 and Catholic school support = \$300,000
New Parish B offertory used for formula = \$300,000

Considering Catholic school reductions in all parishes with schools, the new figure used for total diocesan offertory = \$12,880,000. This changes the above ratio:

Example: Parish A offertory of \$50,000 \div Total diocesan offertory of \$12,880,000 = .00388

- c. Item 'a' will carry a one-third weighting, and item 'b' will carry a two-thirds weighting.
Example: Household ratio of .004 + .00388 + .00388 = .01176 \div 3 = .00392
- d. If the total God's Gift Goal is \$2,800,000 the goal for Parish A is:
 $\$2,800,000 \times .00392 = \$10,976$
- e. Native American parishes: The goal determined in 'd' will be analyzed based on the previous three year history of what was raised in the parish (demonstrated ability). If necessary, the calculated goal in 'd' will be reduced based on the three year average. The amount of reductions for all Native American parishes will be redistributed to all other parishes thereby slightly increasing the calculated goals. For example, the \$10,976 would increase to \$11,087.
- f. No parish goal will increase or decrease more than 10% in a given year; this will help to offset significant differences created by subjective rebalancing in previous years or significant changes in offertory or household numbers from year-to-year. This limited increase or decrease will also slightly affect the goals of all parishes.

Goals provide a means for distributing the total amount needed. In the context of stewardship, we are asking every household to consider a contribution to the God's Gift Appeal of 1% of their annual income. That is why we continue to ask for support from all parishioners in all parishes until the total goal is surpassed and 100% have made a commitment, since all of the faithful have a need to provide from the gifts entrusted to their care.

With all pastors emphasizing stewardship and encouraging 1% [of annual income] support for the GGA the individual parish goals become less important. Since all goals are equitably calculated, all parishes should be able to reach or exceed the goals if the focus is on each donor versus on the parish goal. In the past contributions have been in the $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% range or .25% leaving a lot of room for education and improvement.